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Who Are You, Class of 2000

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Once again we express a sincere welcome to the class of 2000 - all 166 of you. I thought it would be appropriate, this morning, to tell you and the faculty who you are. Can you guess who is who? Well - you've got the next three years to find out!

You've come to us from 24 states and several foreign countries. Of those enrolled from out of state New York has sent us almost twice as many as any other state with North Carolina second. You're from as far west as California and one is from Hawaii. Nearly half of you are from out of state.

41% of you are female and the class's average age is 25. One of you is 21 and one is 58. 18 of you are married.

You are graduates of 79 Universities or Colleges with the highest number, 25, having graduated from UVA, 9 from the College of William & Mary, 8 from Hampden Sydney College and 5 from Duke.

98 of you - 59% have been out of school at least one year and one of you has been out 33 years. Thirteen of you have advanced degrees.

Your average LSAT places you in the top 22% of all those who took that test during the past 3 years. One of you scored 175 - the 99.7th %ile. Your median GPA is 3.08 and the highest GPA in your class is 3.89.

39 different majors are represented with the greatest number - 34 - graduating in - no surprise - Political Science. Twenty-two of you were History majors and 20 English majors.

Twenty-One of you were paralegals and several of you are CPAs. One female student is a chemical engineer and there are several others among you who are also engineers. Several of you interned in the White House and for members of the Senate and Congress.

You have a serious commitment to public service. One of you was a wish grantor for the Make A Wish Foundation, another volunteered over 2000 hours as an Advanced Life Support Provider. You gave hundreds of hours to Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, working with the elderly, in soup kitchens, shelters and crisis hot lines. One of you worked full time with autistic adults and another volunteered with siblings of terminally ill children at a cancer center. Another has been giving riding lessons to handicapped children and adults. A professional ski instructor who specialized in working with children with disabilities is your classmate as is someone in your class who is a reader for the blind.

Many of you have been inducted into ODK and are members of a variety of prestigious honor societies. One of you is a member of MENSA. 5 of you have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

One of you has been robbed at gun point and several have been victims of crime. You speak many languages - French, Spanish, Arabic, Bulgarian, Farsi and Russian, Japanese, Korean, Urdu, Hindi, and Romanian.

You are well traveled and many of you have studied abroad. One studied forestry in Australia, another spent a semester in Zimbabwe, yet another lived in St. Petersburg, Russia. Jordan, Africa, Italy, Australia, Canada, Tokyo, France, Italy, Spain and Russia have been home for many of you as you studied abroad. One of you worked in Guatemala protecting that country's native billfish population. One of you escaped from Bolsheviks in Romania before arriving in the US at age 10 speaking no English at all. Another brave soul went to study the guerilla movement in Colombia after graduation.

The arts have not escaped your interest and one of you is an accomplished pianist. Another is a soprano and two more love to sing gospel music - and are good at it. We have a sculptor in our midst who also loves to flyfish as well as an artist. One of you is an actress who played Jane Austen. Another wrote a 2 ½ page poem as her narrative statement - now that took talent. Do you who is a trained historical interpreter who worked at Monticello? Yet another talented student traveled the world earning his living as a musician. We must find out who got the culinary degree from L'academie de Cuisine and the student who is adept at cooking blackened shark. Let's find that student who has been the dance instructor and that adventurous soul who's been skydiving. Perhaps the prize for unusual jobs should go to your classmate who spent one summer as a chicken impregnator!

One of you played professional football with the Houston Oilers and we should field our best soccer team ever this year as one of you has been a professional at that sport - others have played on a variety of varsity college teams. The 2Ls and 3Ls will be thrilled to finally capture that intermural jersey they've wanted so badly. One has run 5 marathons and one fellow has hiked 1700 miles on the Appalachian Trail. You may get your marching orders from the woman in this class who is a Major in the US Army Reserves.

Did you know that 2 students in your class have been members of school boards? One has been a juvenile corrections officer and another woman has been a narcotics strike officer. A woman in your class was the co founder of the Carolina Civil Liberties Union and another has conducted considerable research in gender equality in Arab Muslim society. Another in your class has assisted in the recovery, restoration and republishing of Yiddish books and yet another has constructed age-enhanced images of abducted children which appeared on backs of milk cartons and national TV programs such as "America's Most Wanted". Do you want to get information on jury composition and the demographic dynamics of the judicial system? One of your classmates has researched this. You must meet the man in your class who has been employed as an interpreter of English, Korean and Japanese for the Commander in Chief of the Korean Fleet! Talk about sensitive positions! Hopefully none of you will have a heart transplant but should that need arise you may wish to know your classmate whose research has lead to new insights in this area..

Interesting - in this class are two who are the third generation of their families to attend the law school - both their grandfathers were in the same graduating class in 1939. In fact, a total of 4 of you are grandchildren of men who attended the law school. Others have mothers, fathers, sisters, and a brother in law who are alumni of the Law School - one of you, who is ranked the 25th best fencer in the nation, has a brother who is a 3L this year.

And so it goes - 166 different stories and 166 different factoids as they're sometimes called around here. But, half the fun is getting to know those who are going to become your life long friends so I'll stop now and wish you good luck and good fun on the adventure upon which you are embarking.